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To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: February 1, 2023

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 94

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 94, legislation that will discontinue the state property tax levies for the Kansas Educational Building Fund and the State Institutions Building Fund. The Kansas Association of REALTORS® represents over 11,000 members involved in residential, agricultural and commercial real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for over 100 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state's economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

REALTORS® believe that real estate is burdened with an excessive share of the constantly increasing cost of state and local government. While we realize the importance of many programs funded through property tax revenues, we believe tax revenues should be equitably collected from a variety of sources and encourage taxing jurisdictions to consider the negative impact to the housing market associated with any potential increase in property tax rates.

It is important to note that while KAR supports the elimination of these two statewide levies dealing with educational buildings, we do not support decreasing the funding. Funding of these programs would instead be paid for by other general fund sources (primarily sales and income taxes) rather than being funded with property taxes. In conclusion, KAR supports SB 94's effort to provide property tax relief and request favorable consideration by the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee. Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.